

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on June 30, 2004. Claims 3, 9, 13, 14, 17 and 21 have been cancelled. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-12, 15-16, 18-20, and 22 are now pending in the application. The Examiner has indicated that claims 3-4, 9-10, 17-18, and 21-22 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 15, 18, 19 and 22 have been amended to better define Applicant's claimed invention. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Claim 4 has been amended into independent form. Claim 7 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 9. Claim 10 has been amended into independent form. Claim 15 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 17. Claim 18 has been amended into independent form. Claim 19 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 21. Claim 22 has been amended into independent form. Accordingly, these claims are in immediate condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-2, 5-8, 11-16, and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over CANON INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH AUSTRALIA PTY LTD. (EPO Patent Appln. No. 0855 838). This rejection is moot in view of the present Amendment, in which all of the independent claims have been amended to include subject matter indicated as being allowable by the Examiner.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that the Examiner did not initial the references listed on Applicant's 1449 form submitted with Applicant's August 21, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references and initial and return to Applicants a copy of the 1449 form. For the Examiners convenience, an extra copy of the 1449 form is enclosed herewith.

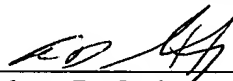
Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicants' claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the foregoing discussion. Applicants' silence as to

any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above, entry of the present amendment and reconsideration and allowance of each of the claims is respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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